

CFSA Provides the Support Foster and Adoptive Parents Need to Succeed

The central struggle of parenthood is to let our hopes for our children outweigh our fears. Ellen Goodman, Columnist

Foster and adoptive parents are essential partners in achieving safety, permanence, and well being for the children we serve. CFSA greatly values their commitment and contributions. We provide extensive support to help every parent manage the challenges and experience the joys of fostering or adopting.

Training, Licensing, and Approval

- Free, mandatory pre-service training to prepare people to foster or adopt
- Extensive free in-service training options to help foster parents meet the mandatory 15 hours of training required annually to maintain their license
- All activities associated with licensing/re-licensing foster homes or approving adoptive homes at little cost to applicants

Support for Children

- Visits from the child's social worker, providing regular opportunities to discuss progress, achievements, issues, needs, and concerns
- Social worker coordination of all helping services for the child (medical care, educational and other evaluations, counseling, tutoring, mentoring, etc.)
- Social worker coordination of foster child visits with parents and siblings
- CFSA payment for room, board, clothing, education, and helping services for foster and pre-adoptive children. This includes coordinated efforts to tap scholarships and other financial support for foster youths interested in higher education.
- CFSA payment of monthly financial subsidies to cover special services for adopted children
- Family Team Meetings to engage birth family members in planning how best to meet the needs of their children in foster care
- Bi-annual Administrative Review meetings to monitor the progress of children in foster and pre-adoptive homes
- Opportunities to attend special entertainment, sporting, cultural, or educational events free of charge

Support for Foster and Pre-Adoptive Parents

- Assignment of a Family Support social worker who visits regularly, addresses questions and concerns, and provides encouragement
- Participation as a valued partner in Family Team Meetings and Administrative Reviews
- Expert assistance in advocating for children with schools, counselors, and other service providers
- Referrals to local foster and adoptive parent organizations and support groups
- Sharing in transporting children to appointments
- Short-term, approved child care (respite care) to give foster or pre-adoptive parents a break
- Opportunities to attend annual conferences and foster/adoptive parent recognition events

- Home renovations, equipment, and supplies to accommodate children with special needs

Support for Adoptive Parents

- Access to Post-Permanency social workers for advice, referrals, and short-term case management
- Access to the District-based Adoption Resource Center